Obituary

JOHN ALEXANDER BALDWIN, Director, Oxford University
Unit of Clinical Epidemiology, Old Road, Headington,
Oxford.

Dr John Baldwin, Director of the Oxford Record Linkage
Study and Unit of Clinical Epidemiology, died suddenly on
29 August 1982, aged 55. John Baldwin qualified in
medicine with honours in Aberdeen. In the course of post-
graduate training in psychiatry he became interested in
epidemiology. A research fellowship enabled him to pursue
this interest in the University Department of Psychiatry in
Aberdeen, where he and his colleagues set up a pioneering
psychiatric case register. He set out to show how this kind of
information gathering could be used to plan and manage
mental health services. The results of this important work
were published as a book, The Mental Hospital in the

From Aberdeen, John Baldwin moved to Oxford to direct
the Record Linkage Study. This comprehensive register
included all forms of medical and surgical diseases as well as
psychiatric disorders. The new post brought large adminis-
trative responsibilities, but it also allowed John Baldwin to
extend his interests beyond psychiatry. For example, he pub-
lished on maternity and child health, on cancer and on
thyroid disease. These wide interests were reflected in his
election to the Fellowship of the Faculty of Community
Medicine. However, while devoting himself wholeheartedly
to these general medical issues, Baldwin's first interest con-
tinued to be in psychiatry. He developed two aspects of the
case register. The first concerned the linking of medical and
psychiatric data. This research was developed in conjunc-
tion with the WHO in an important study of medical dis-
orders among the families of schizophrenic patients. The
second interest was to develop the potential of computers to
link the records of different members of the same family, a
technically difficult undertaking which he was still pursuing
at the time of his death.

Despite these wide responsibilities, John Baldwin con-
tinued to take an active interest in the work of the Oxford
Division of Psychiatry of which he was chairman for several
years. He was a friendly colleague, always ready to give time
to others. He never failed to offer advice and help to those
who were planning their own research. He was especially
concerned with problems of the ethics of psychiatric
research and was for many years chairman of the Research
Ethics Committee. To his immediate colleagues he was a
warm-hearted, popular man. In the wider field of medical
research he was respected for his wise counsel. Outside his
work, he led a particularly happy family life in his home in
an Oxfordshire village. He is survived by his wife and one
son.

DAVID LEWIS DAVIES, Consultant Psychiatrist, 152 Harley
Street, London W1.

Dr David Lewis Davies, Emeritus Physician to the
Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospitals, died on 24 October
1982, aged 72.

Chance has led many famous psychiatrists, including
Henry Maudsley, into their careers. In February 1939,
David Davies, a locum general practitioner in Derby, returned to his digs in a chilly farmhouse with a leaking roof.
He was convalescing from a quinsy, and was feeling 'very
miserable'. Then 'a friend rang up from a mental hospital
and said, "Would you do a locum?" I said, "Is it warm?"
He said, "It's marvellous." I said, "Is the food good?"
He said, "It's superb." But it wasn't the warmth and food which kept
him there. He became fascinated by the patients.

He had left Manchester Grammar School with a scholar-
ship to St John's College, Oxford. There he gained a first
class degree in Physiology, and intended to return to that
subject after qualifying. He duly took up a Demonstrator's
post at Leeds. Fortunately for psychiatry, he found the work
too biochemical for his taste, and returned to a clinical
career, and thus to the fateful farmhouse. He soon obtained
his DPM and ended the war in charge of a 300-bed unit in
India. On his return, he applied for a job at the Maudsley,
and Aubrey Lewis chose him as a registrar. He then 'started
to learn real psychiatry. I realized that I had been doing my
work with no real knowledge of psychiatry at all. It was just,
I say "just" in inverted commas, it was "just" experience.'

For the rest of his life, Davies was to ensure that his own
work, and the work of his colleagues of all grades and trades,
would never be 'just experience', but an exciting amalgam
of scholarship, common sense, humour and, above all, curiosity
and a love of the unexpected. He was a gifted and shrewd
clinician, and his research was firmly rooted in his clinical
expertise. In 1950, two years after his appointment to the
staff of the Hospital, and the year when he started his
Deanship, he began to take an interest in the treatment of
alcoholic patients. His follow-up studies, with Edgar Myers
and Michael Shepherd, set new standards in this field. As is
well-known, his 1962 paper on 'normal drinking in recovered
alcohol addicts' caused a considerable stir. He wrote on
other clinical subjects, and had a particular interest in
'psychiatric art', being Curator of the Guttmann-Maclay
Collection for many years.

His acute cast of mind and unpretentiousness combined to
make him an outstandingly influential teacher. (At least ten
of this country's professors were once his junior doctors.)

* This and other quotations come from 'Conversation with D. L.
Davies' published in the British Journal of Addiction (1979), 74,
239-49.

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